

## WHITE LABOR EXPERIMENT

How it Worked on a Small Scale at Ewa.

WITH conditions which they admitted could not be more favorable, with every possible concession that they could wish except higher pay, fourteen Californians came to Hawaii two years ago to work on a sugar plantation. To the party of fourteen were allotted 131 acres of the best land of the Ewa plantation, and yet with every advantage that they asked, and without any objection to the management, of that number only five remained until the first crop of cane was matured.

Although they made for the entire term of their service with the plantation \$40 per month, with house, fuel, water, a garden of 8,000 square feet, schools and a train to convey the children, a physician when they called on him, free of cost, not one of the five cared to continue the raising of cane, though two are still with the Ewa plantation as overseers. And more, when the cane was arriving at maturity, the men who remained refused to either strip, cut or load their crop and this work had to be done by Japanese.

These facts tell of the first serious and the only determined attempt to plant a purely American colony upon a Hawaiian cane field. It was to be the forerunner, for had it been successful there would have been carried out the original plans, made by former Manager W. J. Lowrie of the estate, which contemplated the cutting up of the plantation into small fields, of an average of 100 acres to fourteen men, to be cultivated by the members of the hui, and the planting of an American plantation of about 2,000 men, and their families upon the broad acres of this estate. The total failure of the experiment, for Japanese hui now do the work upon the very plans followed by the company in the arrangements with the Americans, convinces the plantation men who came into contact with the trials that the white man can do any kind of work that is necessary upon a plantation with sugar cane, but that he will not do some kinds of work on any basis, and that he will not do any kind for a long time.

Of the men who took up their homes at Ewa, five were married and had families. The desertions began when the colony had been on the plantation only a month. The first man to leave went because his wife would not stand the quiet life; the wife of the second died within a few months and he would not stay; the third had a quarrel with a neighbor and quit; another soon after was taken ill and left for the Coast, and then, six months having elapsed, and the cane being in fair condition, five of the young men deserted the plantation in a body, taking only their personal belongings and surrendering any profits which might come to them under their contracts. Of the five remaining two were old men, one was a middle-aged man and two were boys. They stuck it out and then when the cane was milled they took the money and refused to longer work at raising cane. That they were not extraordinary men in any way is further shown from the fact that at the present time, of the 2,100 men on the plantation there are only three Americans, and these are working with teams. There have been many more, but during the two years of the administration of the present manager there has not been an American who would do manual labor in the cane fields and keep at it.

Without going into the various jealousies and petty quarrels, which in the old days back East would have been called "clothes line fights," which kept the colony in a constant turmoil, the capacity of the Californians to do hard and constant work was brought into high light. The oft-repeated assertion that one intelligent American workman is worth two or three cheap men, was conclusively disproven. The greatest amount of labor in the cultivation of cane is in irrigating and hoeing. This is not hard or fast work. There must be let into a ditch just so much water. More will wash the land; less will not keep the cane up to its growing powers for the nine days. To hoe the cane along the rows while the water is running into the ditch is such light work that it is often performed by women. It can be done only so fast for the man must stay in the ditch to see that the water is coming all right. In this it is clearly to be seen that an American cannot do more than the most ignorant of Orientals.

When the cane is ripening the lower leaves must be stripped from the stalks. This work was essayed by the members of the California colony, but they would not continue to do it. The stooping position necessary for the labor was harder upon the stalwart American than it was upon the little brown man. Actual tests showed conclusively that the Japanese could do more than the Californians, and it was only a short time until the white men utterly refused to go into the close rows of cane and strip. When the cutting season came on the white men had been hiring so much of their work done that they tried this branch of the work without much heart for it. The swinging of the cane knife is not essentially hard work, but the men would not take to it, and after slight trials they gave up and this ended their actual labors with the crop, for they consistently said they could not load cane after they had seen how the Japanese

## COMMERCIAL.

STRINGENCY IN THE MONEY MARKET continues the tendency of the stocks downward. There is still the same tightness in ready cash, and it promises to continue until after the fall taxes come in, November 15. One effect felt in the market is the calling in of money by the First National Bank from customers, for the purpose of paying it over to the Territorial Treasurer, Mr. Wright. This money comes under the head of the Chinese immigration bureau funds, and the total amount is put at a little above \$200,000. The other banking institutions are not making any loans, as they are massing money against the heavy demands for the tax payments, which soon will begin. An assessment of fifty cents a share on Olua stock has been called, payable in September. It is understood that Olua will call in \$3 more during the present year. McBryde has called an assessment payable in the same month, of \$1 a share, which is to make that stock fully paid. This will leave Olua the only sugar stock in the market which bears assessments, as the Kihel, McBryde, Kona and Waialua then will be fully paid.

Holders of sugar stocks are generally fully satisfied with the recent meeting of the sugar planters and managers. Every indication goes to show that there will be soon a satisfactory solution of the entire labor problem. Announcement has been made that two steamers, the Colon and the City of Para, will arrive within the next fortnight from San Pedro, with not less than 1,000 Porto Ricans. This and the beginning of the coming of free Japanese laborers, as shown in the steady increase of the numbers of them arriving in the last three steamers, the numbers having been 25, 80 and 110, is slowly restoring confidence, but the tight money market will continue to restrict buying. Over 400 shares of Waialua changed hands at 70, Ewa sold at 24½ and Oahu was offered as low as 128. Koloa Sugar Company, under the short management of P. McLane, has developed much strength, sales six weeks being at 150, and yesterday being sold at 164. Koloa has an abundance of labor and will pay a big dividend next year. Honokaa was offered at 16 with no takers; this stock being quoted at 15 on the San Francisco market. There is nothing doing in McBryde and Kihel. Olua paid up is at 13 and the assessable at 2.50, on which there is 9.50 paid. Pioneer Mill is still held at 100 and the assessable at 25, with 25 per cent paid.

The bond market is firm at the same quotations, Oahu railroad being wanted at 105 and Ewa at 102. Other issues are in fair request and the rates are at the same figures.

### BUSINESS CHANGES.

In the business world the purchase of the Pacific Cycle & Manufacturing Company by E. O. Hall & Sons, Ltd., is the most significant move, accompanied as it was by the announcement that there would be a doubling of the stock of the corporation. This will mean that there will be an immediate resumption of the retail business by the older corporation and there will be a larger line of plantation supplies handled. There is still some shortage of supplies, consequent upon the continuance of the strike at San Francisco, but still not enough to cause any material danger of a famine or an increase of prices.

As one walked over the broken fields up to the tops of cars with a heavy load of the stalks upon their toughened shoulders. As the cane was planted and ready for the first cultivation when the colony took hold, it is seen that there was only one of the several processes in the making of the crop, at which the Americans worked, and at this they will not do any more than did any other laborer, while in the other processes they fell behind the Orientals and gave it up.

The conditions met by the members of the experimental California colony were not to be despised. The terms of the contract fixed what the men were to have and they got all that was promised. At the settlement the company erected nine houses, which were all that were required by the members. Those were of twenty-four feet square, with verandas at the front and back, and with a kitchen separate. There were four rooms, each of about twelve by twelve feet. These houses were not set upon the road, but there was left a front garden, and behind a larger one. The lots were approximately 100 by 80 feet, and there were constructed such irrigation ditches as made it possible for the small planters to have all that they wanted in their own gardens. The houses were furnished, but they were supplied with plumbing, and there was every convenience that the ordinary farmer's house contains. There was a pipe line which carried water for household use.

All fuel that the planter might want was furnished, the only duty that the planter had in this connection being its cutting. In addition there was passage for any domestic animals that the planter might have. The colony is three miles from the school and the plantation furnished a train to bring the children and take them. There was some objection to the children going to the same schools as the Japanese but even now there are many children in the same schools, doing quite well. The attendance by the physician was of course included. And as the colonists were not in the best position financially, it was provided that an advance of \$18 a month in cash, was to be made for the living expenses of the individual planter.

The other side of the arrangement was that the planters should take care of the cane just as they were directed by the plantation men. That every process of the cultivation should be followed and that the plantation should have the right to hire extra labor and charge it to the cost of the crop, if there should be necessity for it. The division of the returns was to be five-sixths for the plantation and one-sixth for the planter. This gross amount was to be divided on a ratio decided upon by the planters themselves, and in case there should be desire for any immediate settlement the basis should be \$50 per ton, the balance to be sent settled later. It was upon this basis that the final settlement was made. Each of the men who stayed received \$40 for each month of his service and the two men who had to leave, owing to ill health and the death of a wife, received the same rate.

Of the causes which were ascribed for the failure there were none which were on all fours with anything that the management expected. It was agreed by the men that there could be nothing done by the plantation that would aid them, except pay them more money. The estate paid them more than twice what was being paid for the same labor to men of other nationalities. The young men who deserted in a body said that they were homesick, that they could not agree with one another, and that the returns were not what was expected. There was no charge that the plantation did not do all that was promised, but the fact remained that the men could do better in other lines, and they would not work in the fields.

As to the internal disagreements they were many. The men could not agree as to which one should have charge of the irrigation ditches, the man who was responsible for the amount of water turned into the fields. Then they did not agree as to their relations in their homes. There was constant squabbling, until the manager, who was looked to for the settlement of all these little matters, used to set his horse to hard gallop across approaching the colony and gallop past so fast that he could not be stopped. Now it was one neighbor using the water when it was wanted by another. Then it was a pipe which was stopped up.

Summing up the whole matter it is the opinion of the plantation men who studied the experiment that it proved that there could not be a change of the class of labor unless there was to be a large number of the American workmen brought here, which they think impossible while there is so large demand at

home for this very kind of work. If there are to be American workmen in the fields, they think it will come through men who will make the experiment, and having found how to do the work would send for their friends. No radical move is possible for the reason that there could be no teaching of the business in a day or a month, and to attempt to deprive the plantation at once of the services of its entire force of Orientals would mean destruction of the interests, and at the same time, white men will not work in the fields with the Japanese and Chinese.

White men can do any work about a plantation, as well as any other man, and in some instances better, as in the mills, but they will not do it.

## PERHAPS INCENDIARY Cause of Honolulu Plantation Fire.

Fire in a field of the Honolulu plantation at midnight Saturday destroyed an acre of cane. As soon as the fire was discovered the men were turned out in force and the cane was cut about the burning area, confining the fire to the one spot. The blaze was seen at the Peninsula by Acting Governor Cooper, and his telephone message brought about arrangements here for the sending of an engine, on the supposition that the mill was burning. As no connection with the plantation could be had, nothing was done and within a half-hour the fire was under control. Manager Low of the Honolulu plantation said yesterday: "The fire was about 1,500 feet above the mill. People living on the Peninsula naturally thought it was in the mill, as the glare shone through the windows and made it really appear as though the blaze was directly in the building. There are many number of windows in the mill, and I am not surprised that people on the Peninsula were deceived."

"As for bringing the Honolulu fire department down to the plantation, that would hardly be necessary except in the most extreme case. We have a fully equipped department of our own, including hose, hydrants and fire-fighting paraphernalia, and a reservoir high up on the hills which holds 13,000 gallons of water. We have a hundred-foot head."

"I am of the opinion that the fire was incendiary. There are a number of men who have been shifted around from one kind of field work to another, and it is probable a disgruntled laborer made up his mind to obtain revenge by burning up the plantation."

### FIRES ON OTHER ISLANDS.

OLAA, Hawaii, August 26.—There was a large fire in the cane last Wednesday of last week at eight miles, caused by sparks from the locomotive, burning over nearly four acres, but fortunately it was mature cane, which was cut at once and sent to the mill, so there was no loss.

PUNALUU, August 21.—A new fire started in the cane at Kapalama at noon today and before it could be got under control between forty and fifty acres of cane were destroyed. Of this seventeen acres belonged to a Japanese, a few acres to Honokaa Sugar Co. and the balance to Pacific Sugar Mill. When the fire was discovered word was sent to Honokaa and almost the entire force including Manager Watt responded. A wide road was cut through and around the cane and by this means the fire was put under control.

Admiral Sampson may retire as commandant of the Boston naval yard on account of ill health. Admiral Mortimer L. Johnson will be his successor.

## INVITED BY GRAND DUKE

Our Fishes Wanted at Russian Exhibit.

HAWAII has been invited by His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Sergius Alexandrovitch of Russia to participate in the International Exhibition of Fisheries to be held in St. Petersburg in February and March, 1902. A Fisheries Congress will also be held while the exhibition is in progress. The exhibition will mark an era of progress in this world-wide industry and it is hoped by the royal patron that all nations on the globe will respond and place before the public gaze, not only the species well known to the world over, but those which are the most difficult to obtain and therefore the most interesting.

The purpose of the exposition is to determine the actual condition of sea and fresh water fisheries and of other similar pursuits; to acquaint producers and consumers with the various products of fisheries and with methods of preparing and preserving the same; to exhibit the gradual development and actual state of artificial fish breeding, as likewise the various aspects of amateur fishing and angling, and to promote scientific research pursued in the interests of fisheries. Awards are to be granted by a jury composed of the managers of the Russian and of the several foreign sections and will consist of honorary diplomas, gold, silver and bronze medals and honorable mentions.

It is also desired to have placed on exhibition the gear used in fishing. Fish hooks made of wood, bone, stone, metal, shells and teeth are asked for, and also the appliances for gathering corals and shell fish; also fishing boats and vessels.

One of the principal features will be the exhibition of the social side of the fisherman's life from all climes. Types of their dwellings, stationary or movable, huts, tents, etc., will be given especial attention.

All applications for space are to be addressed in the name of the Executive Committee of the International Exhibition of Fisheries at St. Petersburg, 1902, not later than November 1, this year.

## DID DOWAGER EMPRESS REMARRY?

PHILADELPHIA, August 11.—A cable to the North American from Paris says: "Was the late Dowager Empress Frederick secretly married in 1896 to Count von Seckendorf, her court chamberlain? In a story in the affirmative the French papers are now revealing. It is the European sensation of the day. It is believed to be true, and it is quite likely that other sensations will soon follow these revelations." The Kaiser is furious at publications concerning the Empress, not only in France, but in England and the United States. He is understood to have ordered a censorship of all telegrams sent to foreign papers. In the French journals numerous anecdotes are recalled concerning quarrels between Emperor William and his mother regarding the question of a marriage between the latter and Count von Seckendorf.

The correspondent is able to give curious confirmation to these rumors of a marriage, after being shown letters written by the Baroness von Rosbach, who was formerly one of the chief ladies-in-waiting to the Empress. The Baroness insists that the Empress and von Seckendorf were secretly married in 1896; that they lived together as man and wife; that they had the deepest affection for each other, and that their marital relations were as happy as they could possibly be under the circumstances. The marriage was known to the Kaiser and to all the Empress's relatives, but was never officially or even privately acknowledged. The Kaiser never allowed his children to visit Friedrichshof and only permitted Count von Seckendorf to enter his presence under protest, and only then in his mother's suite. The Baroness von Rosbach may be taken as good authority, for she has been always intimately associated with the Dowager Empress.

### Damages for a Lost Bride.

LAFORTE, Ind., August 10.—Because he was carried far past the village where his fiancée, Mrs. William Stalwell, waited to marry him, missed his wedding and had his engagement broken, Charles Arnold has begun suit against the Clover Leaf Railroad Company for \$20,000. The marriage had to be postponed one day because it took Arnold two days to reach the county seat to get a license. Finally, on the wedding day, Arnold left home on a Clover Leaf train. He was worn out with preparations for the event, but before lapsing into sound sleep told the conductor to call him when Melotte was reached. He awoke to find himself miles beyond his destination. He telegraphed his intended bride of his inability to reach Melotte in time for the marriage that day, but the telegram which came in reply cancelled the engagement, with the result that there is a complete estrangement between the couple. Arnold alleges neglect on the part of the railroad company's employee.

Camp Jackson, below New Orleans, which was made uninhabitable during the summer season by the mosquito, has been cleared of the pest by the officer in command of the garrison through the use of crude petroleum. It is now said that there is not a mosquito in the barracks.

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NIPPON MARU	OCT. 4	COPTIC	OCT. 1
PERU	OCT. 12	AMERICA MARU	OCT. 8
COPTIC	OCT. 22	PEKING	OCT. 15
AMERICA MARU	OCT. 30	GAELIC	OCT. 22
PEKING	NOV. 7	HONGKONG MARU	NOV. 1
GAELIC	NOV. 14	CHINA	NOV. 8
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